

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 220763 TOSEC 260152

41

ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 PRS-01 /017 R

DRAFTED BY S - RWAHERNE/LM

APPROVED BY X - MR. AHERNE

S/S -O RMPERITO

----- 001349

O 061734Z SEP 76 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 220763 TOSEC 260152

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SPON

SUBJECT: PRESS STORY

FOLLOWING IS FULL TEXT ROWLAND EVANS AND ROBERT NOVAK ARTICLE WASHINGTON POST SEPTEMBER 6:

BEGIN TEXT: CARTER'S ADVICE FROM BROOKINGS

A MAJOR REASON WHY PRESIDENT FORD'S AGENTS TRIED TO LIMIT THE FIRST DEBATE TO DEFENSE POLICY IS JIMMY CARTER'S DEPENDENCE SO FAR ON MILITARY ADVICE FROM SOFT-LINE EXPERTS AT THE BROOKINGS INSTITUTION.

ALTHOUGH TOTALLY OBSCURED BY HIS HEADLINE-PRODUCING PROMISE TO PARDON VIETNAM DRAFT DODGERS, CARTER'S AMERICAN LEGION SPEECH ALSO CONTAINED SOME DUBIOUS DEFENSE COST-CUTTING SCHEMES THAT HAVE BEEN KICKING AROUND BROOKINGS FOR YEARS. BROOKINGS, A PRESTIGIOUS WASHINGTON THINK-TANK WHICH HAS HOUSE A LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT-IN-EXILE SINCE 1969, IS CLEARLY CALLING THE TUNE ON CARTER DEFENSE POLICY.

WHETHER MR. FORD HAS THE WILL OR THE SKILL TO TURN THIS TO HIS POLITICAL ADVANTAGE REMAINS TO BE SEEN. FURTHERMORE,
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 220763 TOSEC 260152

HARD-LINE DEMOCRATS INSIST THAT CARTER'S UPBRINGING BACK-

GROUND AND INSTINCTS ULTIMATELY WILL PREVAIL OVER THE BROOKINGS CONNECTION. NEVERTHELESS, EVEN THESE FRIENDS PRIVATELY WISH THE DEMOCRATIC NOMINEE WOULD SEEK MORE VARIOUS NATIONAL SECURITY ADVICE.

THE BASIS OF CARTER'S PROBLEM IS FAINTLY UNDERSTOOD. DESPITE HIS US NAVAL ACADEMY EDUCATION AND EARLY CAREER AS A REGULAR NAVY OFFICER, NATIONAL SECURITY IS HIS WEAKEST AREA OF EXPERTISE; HIS EXPERIENCE WITH NUCLEAR SUBMARINES TWO DECADES AGO SCARCELY EQUIPS HIM TO WRESTLE WITH GLOBAL MILITARY POLICY.

NOR DID HE HAVE TIME TO IMMERSE HIMSELF IN DEFENSE COMPLEXITIES WHILE BEGINNING HIS AMAZING RUN FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATION. CONSEQUENTLY, HIS PROPOSED \$5 BILLION TO \$7 BILLION DEFENSE SPENDING CUT WAS NOT BASED ON CAREFUL BUDGET ANALYSIS BUT SEEMED A GOOD, ROUND FIGURE SOMEWHERE BETWEEN GEORGE MCGOVERN AND RONALD REAGAN.

WHEN CARTER WAS TRANSFORMED FROM DARK HORSE TO FRONT RUNNER HOWEVER, HE FACED DEMANDS TO PINPOINT WHERE THAT \$5-\$7 BILLION WAS COMING FROM. HIS EARLY VAGUE ANSWERS EXPOSED HIS LACK OF FAMILIARITY WITH MILITARY BUDGETING. HIS WORST BLUNDER WAS PROPOSING TO ELIMINATE ARMY ENGINEERS' SPENDING ON RIVERS AND HARBORS, WHICH IN FACT NEVER HAS BEEN INCLUDED IN THE DEFENSE BUDGET -- AN ERROR PERSISTED IN BY CARTER UNTIL JUNE.

WHEN PRESSED TO SPECIFY DEFENSE CUTS, CARTER WOULD REPLY THAT THE EXPERTS AT BROOKINGS CALLED A \$5-\$7 BILLION REDUCTION REASONABLE. BY JULY, HE WAS GETTING SPECIFIC PROPOSALS FROM BROOKINGS. BY AUGUST, CARTER HAD ADOPTED SOME AS HIS OWN AND ON AUGUST 24, UNVEILED THEM TO THE LEGIONNAIRES IN SEATTLE.

LARGELY OVERLOOKED SECTIONS OF THE SEATTLE SPEECH PROPOSED, FIRST, SAVING \$400 MILLION A YEAR BY INCREASING THE AVERAGE MILITARY TOUR OF DUTY BY TWO MONTHS AND, SECOND, SAVING \$1 BILLION A YEAR BY RAISING THE MILITARY TEACHER-PUPIL RATIO FROM 1.5:1 TO 3:1. THEN CARTER EXPLODED HIS BOMBSHELL BY UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 220763 TOSEC 260152

IMPLYING HE COULD SAVE \$10.7 BILLION IN COST OVERRUNS DURING THE NEXT FIVE YEARS.

THE STAFF WORK WAS OBVIOUSLY HURRIED. AN EXTRA TWO MONTHS ON DUTY TOURS, THE PRINCIPLE OF WHICH IS INCLUDED IN CURRENT PENTAGON REFORMS, WOULD SAVE NOT \$400 MILLION BUT \$180 MILLION. THE PRESENT TEACHER-PUPIL RATIO IS NOT 1.5:1 BUT 5:1. TOTAL COST OVERRUNS ON 45 WEAPONS SYSTEMS NOW BEING

DEVELOPED ARE \$13.4 BILLION, NOT \$10.7 BILLION. BUT THAT REPRESENTS AN ANNUAL OVERRUN RATE OF 3 PERCENT, WHICH COMPARES FAVORABLY WITH ACQUISITION PROGRAMS IN PRIVATE INDUSTRY AND ELSEWHERE IN GOVERNMENT.

SOME DEMOCRATIC DEFENSE EXPERTS ON CAPITOL HILL FEEL CARTER ERRED BASICALLY IN SWALLOWING OLD BROOKINGS SCHEMES. EVEN THE MOST DESIROUS ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS CANNOT YIELD QUICK ONE-YEAR SAVINGS. CARTER CAN GET AN IMMEDIATE \$5-\$7 BILLION CUT ONLY BY MAJOR MANPOWER REDUCTIONS, WHICH COULD CHANGE THE WORLD BALANCE OF POWER, OR BY RADICALLY REDUCING PAY BENEFITS AND CLOSING BASES, AREAS WHERE CONGRESSIONAL CONSENT IS BOTH NECESSARY AND UNATTAINABLE.

BEYOND DETAILS, THESE EXPERTS REGRET THE NEAR MONOPOLY ON MILITARY ADVICE TO CARTER BY BROOKINGS AND WOULD PREFER A WIDER RANGE OF ADVISERS. THE CARTER CAMPAIGN REPLY TO SUCH CRITICISM INVARIABLY POINTS TO HARD-LINER PAUL NITZE, FORMER DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE. NITZE DOES PROVIDE SOME COUNTERWEIGHT, AS IN EDITING A BROOKINGS-PREPARED BRIEFING PAPER ON STRATEGIC WEAPONS WHICH, INCREDIBLY, NEGLECTED TO DISCUSS THE NEW SOVIET SS-20 LAND-BASED MOBILE MISSILE. BUT NITZE IS A PITIFULLY OUTNUMBERED HAWK AMONG CARTER BRAINTRUST DOVES.

THIS IS NOT ENTIRELY MINDLESS INADVERTENCE. THE CARTER HIGH COMMAND PASSED UP A CHANCE TO CONSULT DR. JAMES SCHLESINGER, A DISTINGUISHED GLOBAL THINKER PURGED BY MR. FORD AS SECRETARY OF DEFENSE. TO THE CARTER INNER CIRCLE, SCHLESINGER WAS TOO MUCH COLD WARRIOR.

"I STILL CONSIDER JIMMY A GOOD OLD GEORGIA BOY WHO AS PRESIDENT WILL DO THE RIGHT THING ON NATIONAL SECURITY POLICY,"
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 220763 TOSEC 260152

ONE DEMOCRATIC HARD-LINER TOLD US. BUT EVEN SUCH LOYAL CARTER SUPPORTERS WOULD FEEL BETTER IF THEIR FAITH IN HIM WERE REINFORCED BY A BROADER BASE OF DEFENSE EXPERTS EDUCATING HIM THIS FALL.

END TEXT

ROBINSON

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOSEC, MILITARY BUDGET, PRESS COMMENTS, ELECTION CANDIDATES, SPEECHES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE220763
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RWAHERNE/LM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760337-0430
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760987/aaaacxfq.tel
Line Count: 162
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cahillha
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 FEB 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 FEB 2004 by MaustMC>; APPROVED <18 JAN 2005 by cahillha>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS STORY FOLLOWING IS FULL TEXT ROWLAND EVANS AND ROBERT NOVAK ARTI- CLE WASHINGTON POST SEPTEMBER 6
TAGS: SOPN, MILI, US, WASHINGTON POST, (CARTER, JIMMY), (EVANS, ROWLAND), (NOVAK, ROBERT)
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006